

**Washington, D.C. -** Today, Congressman Jim Costa (CA-20) announced federal education grants awarded to California's 20<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

"I would like to congratulate the schools on receiving these grants and thank them for their service to the Central Valley," Congressman Costa said.

California State University of Fresno, California State University of Bakersfield, Fresno City College and West Hills Community College will all receive federal funding under TRIO Student Support Services Program. TRIO refers to three education programs; Upward Bound, Talent Search and Student Support Services. Several additional programs have been added over the years.

The Student Support Services Program provides grants to institutions of higher education. The funding is awarded to programs that work to increase the retention and graduation rates of low-income and first generation college students. Projects under this program include activities designed to acquaint students with a range of available career options, mentoring programs and assistance in securing admission and financial aid for graduate and professional programs.

California State University of Fresno and California State University of Bakersfield will each receive approximately \$280,000, which will allow them to serve 200 and 250 students respectively. West Hills Community College will receive approximately \$285,000 and will be able to serve 400 students with this funding. Fresno City College will receive approximately \$235,000 which will allow them to serve 160 students.

"TRIO is a great program that benefits many students in the Central Valley. Unfortunately, the President's proposed budget reduces funding for this important education program," Costa stated.